

ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING
Summary Minutes
January 27, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Joe Devish, Tom Phillips, Philip Parker, Lea Gaskill, Don Kopczynski, Fred Tricarico, Gloria Ashford, David A. Bowman, David S. Bowman, David Jacobsen, Charlene Clark, Geoffrey Newman, Jim Simmons, and Secretary/Chief Electrical Inspector Ronald Fuller.

MEMBER NOT PRESENT: Vice Chairman Mike Hendrix.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Item 1 Approve Minutes of Electrical Board

The October 28, 2004, meeting minutes for the Electrical Board were approved as written.

Item 2 Department Update

Patrick Woods expressed concern about recent indications that some cities were exploring the option of adopting an ordinance to perform electrical inspections in their jurisdiction. Patrick requested the Board to offer advice to assist the department on steps to take to address this issue. The Board discussed the matter and suggested that the department take a proactive approach with the best interest of our electrical customer's, specifically electrical contractors and consumers. The Board advised the department to do what it could to maintain electrical inspection in the cities.

Board member Fred Tricarico also brought up an issue about telecommunication providers working out of compliance and requested the department to explore options to address this issue. Patrick and Ron Fuller agreed they would research the issue further.

Item 3 Budget

Mike Ratko reported that the Electrical Fund was in good shape. The Electrical Program was well within their allotment and there were no indication of being overspent at the end of the fiscal biennium.

Item 4 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) HVAC Report

Eric Thomas, a staff person for JLARC, informed the Board that JLARC was conducting a study for the legislature on HVAC licensing and testing requirements. JLARC is a bipartisan bicameral committee of senators and representatives. In the study they will be looking at the current requirements and verify if the requirements are consistent with other specialties and to determine if there are ways the current process can be improved. The final report will be done in June.

Item 5 RCW/WAC Update

5 a RCW Update

Ron Fuller stated that there was little legislation this year for electrical and provided a brief summary of a few pieces of legislation that may impact the electrical program.

5 b WAC Update

Ron presented the proposed WAC changes that had been reviewed and supported by the Technical Advisory Committee. A motion was made and carried by the Board to approve the proposed changes to the WAC for the department to move forward with the formal adoption process.

5 c HVAC Proposal

Ron presented the WAC proposal pertaining to the HVAC scope of work which would expand control work above three floors in residential occupancies. He also presented some background on the issue. The Board had several people from the audience speak to them about this proposal where they heard both support and opposition. Motion was made and passed that the Board would not support the proposal.

Item 6 Secretary's Report

Revenue Status

The Electrical Fund balance through November 2004 was \$7,492,766.

Customer Service

During this past quarter, contractors used the Internet Purchasing of Electrical Permits (IPEP) system to purchase 16,423 permits. The last quarterly average of all permit purchases using IPEP is 39%.

During this past quarter, contractors used the Electrical Inspection Request Service (EIRS) to request 21,872 inspections. The quarterly average of all inspection requests done via EIRS is up 2% from last quarter to 33%.

The SAFES (Strategic Action for Electrical Safety) project ended in October 2004. See the attached report.

The department has held several stakeholders meeting over the last quarter. Turn out was not very high in some offices, but a few items of interest that came out of the meetings were to continue to: increase the availability of training for electricians and contractors, improve our electronic technology for commerce, and keep targeting the underground economy and noncompetitive contractors. These are the same issues we have heard for the past five years. With the exception of the organized portion of the HVAC industry, stakeholders seem very satisfied with our current service delivery. The only item where concern was voiced was our slowdown in inspection response due the large increase in workload this past year. The regional supervisors and managers are working on a plan to improve efficiency to get to their inspections faster. Their initiative improved response by about 4% in December (to 85% of all inspections in less than 24 hours).

The department has begun several training sessions on the NEC, RCW, and WAC across the state. Sign-up has been very good at all six locations. Our training has been very well received.

Rule Revisions

The official adoption of the interim rules took effect on November 22, 2004. The 2005 proposed rule changes will be reviewed in detail at the meeting.

Testing Lab Report

No new testing labs have been approved. We denied approval of NAHB Research because the lab could not demonstrate electrical testing experience.

Performance Measures

<u>Electrical Scorecard from July 2004 to December 2004</u>	
Goal (Target)	<u>State Totals</u>
1. Targeted Citations/Region/Quarter (341)	357
2. % Targeted Citations/Total Citations (45%)	46.8%
3. # of Individual Corrections/Contractor Corrections (<7.8)	4.7
4. % Stops <24 hours (89%)	82.6%
5. % Finals A/C of Finals Eligible (15%)	11.3
6. # of Stops/Inspector Day (workload indicator only)	11.4
7. # of Electrical Disconnect Corrections	21789

Electrical Licensing – The licensing staff continues to meet or exceed their goals of processing within three days.

Electrical Plan Review – Plan review's workload remains steady with some Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) projects starting to arrive but they are still within their goal of less than one month processing time.

In addition to this report Ron mentioned that there was a policy approved by the Board that was no longer needed since the language had been incorporated into WAC 296-46B effective November 22, 2004. The Board made and passed a motion to rescind Policy #04-01 Independent Power Producer.

Item 7 Inspection Activity

The transcripts show that this item did not get covered.

Item 8 Certification Quarterly Report

Ron Fuller provided the Board with a report from LaserGrade. Ron commented that the percent of people passing the administrator exam on the first attempt has increased. The department is advocating formal education for those learning the electrical trade to assist them in the use of resource books that can help them pass the exams and will help them be better equipped to resolve problems on the job.

Item 9 Presentation of Final Orders

Lisa Marsh, Assistant Attorney General (AAG), had no final orders to present at this time.

Item 10 Appeals

10 a John Zeller

John Zeller appealed the department's intent to suspend his electrical administrator certificate for two years. There was no one present representing Mr. Zeller. Shelley Mortinson, AAG provided testimony on behalf of the department. Ms. Mortinson presented the departments case which claimed that Mr. Zeller had provided the department with falsified verification of his experience on his application for a journeyman electrician certificate. The Board issued Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law, which upheld the department intent to suspend Mr. Zeller's administrator certificate however they did increase the length of suspension to four years not two years as the department had intended.

10 b Woodford Electric Service, Inc. and John Morrison

Woodford Electric Service, Inc. and John Morrison appealed an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) decision to uphold citations written to each for failure to obtain an electrical work permit prior to performing electrical work. There was not a representative for the appellants at the meeting. Mr. Morrison had sent a letter to the Board stating he would not be attending and stated a few items he wished the Board to consider. Lisa Marsh, AAG provided testimony for the department and responded to the items in Mr. Morrison's letter. Motion was made and carried to uphold the ALJ decision and affirm the citations.

10 c Cavalier Corporation and Warren Riddle

Cavalier Corporation and Warren Riddle appealed the ALJ's decision to uphold citations written to Cavalier for employing individual without proper electrical certification and to Mr. Riddle for failing to perform the duties of the electrical administrator. Mr. Riddle appeared to present his case. Shelley Mortinson, AAG, was present to represent the department. Motion was made and carried to uphold the ALJ decision and affirm the citations.

10 d Sutherland Electric

Sutherland Electric appealed an ALJ decision to uphold a citation written for failure to obtain an electrical work permit prior to performing electrical work. Sid Sutherland, owner of Sutherland Electric presented his case to the Board. Lisa Marsh, AAG provided testimony on behalf of the department. Motion was made and carried to uphold the ALJ decision and the citation.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.